

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EB-04 H-01 INR-05 PM-03
PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 USIE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /045 W
-----005911 300957Z /21

O R 300940Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9480
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 10905

LIMDIS

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, GW, PINT, EEC
SUBJECT: GENSCHER'S AIDE COMMENTS ON THE CHANCELLOR'S
VISIT AND ON FRG POLITICS

BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING A CONVERSATION WITH THE
AMBASSADOR, GENSCHER'S AIDE, KINKEL, SAID THAT
CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT EXPECTED TO CONCENTRATE ON ECONOMIC
ISSUES DURING HIS MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT. HE ALSO
EXPRESSED THE CONCERNS THAT THE FRG FELT ABOUT ENLARGE-
MENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IN THE LIGHT OF GERMAN
UNEMPLOYMENT. KINKEL DESCRIBED THE GERMAN DOMESTIC
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SITUATION AT SOME LENGTH, CONCLUDING THAT ALL PARTIES
EMERGED SOMEWHAT SHAKEN FROM THE CONFRONTATIONS OF THE
LAST FEW WEEKS. HE WARNED OF THE DANGERS THAT NEXT
YEAR'S LAND ELECTIONS WOULD POSE TO THE SPD/FDP COALITION
END SUMMARY

1. DURING A CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR, KLAUS

KINKEL, PLANNING CHIEF IN THE FRG FOREIGN OFFICE AND A CLOSE CONFIDANT OF GENSCHER, SAID THE FOLLOWING ON DIVERSE TOPICS:

--THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH THE CHANCELLOR. SCHMIDT WILL CONCENTRATE EXTENSIVELY ON ECONOMIC TOPICS DURING THESE MEETINGS. HE HOPES, HOWEVER, THAT IT WILL BE UNDERSTOOD THAT HIS OWN POSITION IS VERY STRONGLY SET. ALTHOUGH THE FRG IS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT UNEMPLOYMENT, THERE ARE OTHER THINGS--SUCH AS INFLATION--THAT IT FEARS EVEN MORE. HOWEVER, SCHMIDT IS CONFIDENT THAT ANY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GERMANY AND THE UNITED STATES CAN BE RESOLVED IN A SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP.

--EC MEMBERSHIP. GENSCHER WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE EC INCLUDE GREECE, SPAIN, AND PORTUGAL. HE BELIEVES THAT, ONCE BRITAIN WAS INCLUDED, THE EC HAD MADE A FUNDAMENTAL DECISION TO GO BEYOND ITS ORIGINAL SIX MEMBERS. GENSCHER AND THE CHANCELLOR HAVE DISCUSSED THIS SEVERAL TIMES. A VERY REAL PROBLEM IS THAT MEMBERSHIP OF THESE COUNTRIES IN THE EC COULD FLOOD THE GERMAN LABOR MARKET EVEN FURTHER AND DRIVE UP UNEMPLOYMENT TO POLITICALLY DANGEROUS RATES.

--THE BUNDESTAG CONFRONTATIONS OF THE LAST FEW
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WEEKS HAVE LEFT THE SPD/FDP COALITION SHAKEN BUT FUNDAMENTALLY STRENGTHENED BY THE DEMONSTRATION OF SOLIDARITY THAT TOOK PLACE ON THE LAST FEW VOTES. HOWEVER, WEHNER CANNOT BE EXPECTED AGAIN TO SUCCEED IN BRINGING

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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 10905

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RECALCITRANT SPD MEMBERS AROUND WITH THE SAME SUCCESS AS THIS TIME. GENSCHER ALSO KNOWS THAT HE USED UP A GREAT DEAL OF HIS CAPITAL IN COMPELLING THE SPD AND THE CDU IN TURN TO FOLLOW THE FDP ON CERTAIN ITEMS OF LEGISLATION.

--FALL PROSPECTS. AFTER THE SUMMER RECESS, THERE MAY BE A PERIOD OF CALM IN THE BUNDESTAG, AT LEAST FOR A WHILE. HOWEVER, SEVERAL BRUTAL PROBLEMS REMAIN ON THE DOCKET. THE ENERGY PACKAGE, IN WHICH THE FDP HAS NOW DISTANCED ITSELF FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND EVEN FROM ITS OWN ECONOMICS MINISTER, HAS TO BE ADDRESSED. MOREOVER, THE BUNDESRAT STILL HAS TO APPROVE THE TAX PACKAGE.

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--LONGER-TERM PROSPECTS. BECAUSE THE POLITICAL BASE OF THE FDP HAS MOVED TO THE LEFT, GENSCHER HAS TO HAVE A GENUINE REASON TO LEAVE THE PRESENT COALITION. NO SUCH REASON HAS EMERGED. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE CDU WILL WIN ABSOLUTE MAJORITIES IN HESSE AND IN LOWER SAXONY NEXT YEAR, AND THAT THE FDP VOTE MIGHT GO BELOW FIVE PER CENT IN ONE OR BOTH OF THESE STATES. THE HESSE ELECTION COULD BE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT. IF THE CDU WINS BOTH THOSE ELECTIONS, OR EVEN ONLY THE ONE IN HESSE, IT MIGHT BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR THE PRESENT COALITION TO CONTINUE TO GOVERN.

--KOHL'S POSITION. KOHL'S POSITION IN THE CDU/CSU WAS DAMAGED BY THE EVENTS OF THE LAST WEEK, MOST PARTICULARLY BY THE DECISION OF LOWER SAXONY TO SUPPORT

THE SOCIAL LEGISLATION IN THE BUNDESRAT. THE
PARLIAMENTARY GROUP MEETING AFTER THAT VOTE WAS THE
MOST DIFFICULT MEETING KOHL EVER FACED. HOWEVER, IT
IS DIFFICULT TO SEE WHO MIGHT SUCCEED KOHL AS CDU
LEADER. BIEDENKOPF IS TOO OBVIOUSLY AMBITIOUS AND TOO
UNPOPULAR; ALBRECHT HAS RISEN TOO FAR TOO FAST;
STOLTENBERG IS INTELLECTUALLY QUALIFIED BUT LACKS
PERSONALITY AND A SOUTHERN POLITICAL BASE; STRAUSS AND
DREGGER CANNOT WIN IN THE NORTH. THEREFORE, KOHL WILL
PROBABLY STAY ON.
STOESSEL

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